

Message Text

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51

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 PM-07 DODE-00 NSC-07 MC-02 ACDA-19

L-03 EUR-25 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /107 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN:RJW

APPROVED BY P - MR. SISCO

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ISA/ASD - ADMIRAL PEET

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

S/S - MR. GAMMON

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P 091850Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 048008

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MASS, KU

SUBJECT:FMS KUWAIT --AIRCRAFT

REF: KUWAIT 879

1. WE REGRET GOK DECISION TO PURCHASE MIRAGE AND JAGUAR AIRCRAFT WHICH OVERLOOKS THE RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE FEBRUARY 1972 US MILITARY SURVEY TEAM. AS THE EMBASSY WILL RECALL, SURVEY RECOMMENDED THAT KUWAIT ACQUIRE A DUAL PURPOSE AIRCRAFT, SUCH AS THE F-5E, BECAUSE OF EASIER MAINTENANCE AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS, ADVANTAGES IN ACQUIRING BASIC AIRCRAFT CAPABILITY SIMILAR TO THAT IN SAUDI AND IRANIAN INVENTORIES, AND IN LIGHT OF KUWAITI MANPOWER LIMITATIONS. WE CANNOT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE NOW WAIVE THESE CONSIDERATIONS BY OFFERING F-4 OR F-14 TO GOK IN ATTEMPT TO OUTBID FRENCH AND BRITISH. FYI - ALTHOUGH WE OFFERED SAUDIS LIMITED NUMBER OF F-4S LAST SUMMER SUBJECT TO OUR UNDERTAKING SURVEY OF THEIR MILITARY MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS, SAUDIS HAVE HAD SECOND THOUGHTS AND ARE NOW ASKING US CON-

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DUCT A LONG-TERM SURVEY OF RSAF REQUIREMENTS OVER NEXT

5-10 YEARS BEFORE REACHING ANY DECISION ON COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO AIRCRAFT MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN F-5E. END FYI.

2. IN EVENT GOK SHOULD WISH TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION TO PURCHASE MIRAGE AND JAGUAR AT LATER DATE, WE WOULD OF COURSE BE PLEASED TO REOPEN DISCUSSIONS.

3. REGARDING QUESTION OF AIR TO AIR MISSILE WHOSE PERFORMANCE IS CONSIDERED SUPERIOR TO FRENCH MATRA, THIS WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPTTEL. KISSINGER

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